

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-15, 17-29 and 31 are pending in this application; claims 2-10 and 29 are withdrawn by the Examiner due to a restriction/election requirement. By this Amendment, claims 1, 12, 15 and 17 are amended. Claims 11, 16 and 30 are cancelled. Claims 1 and 15 are amended to contain the subject matter of claims 11 and 16, respectively. Claims 12 and 17 are amended to correct their dependencies in view of cancelled claims 11 and 16. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Patent Office for allowing claims 20-28 and 31 and for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 11, 12, 16, 17 and 30.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 14, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,982,751) in view of Yamada (U.S. Patent No. 6,914,633); and rejects claims 13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tanaka in view of Yamada, and further in view of Gallagher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,765,611). These rejections are moot.

Claims 1 and 15 are amended to contain the allowable subject matter of claims 11 and 16, respectively. Thus, claims 1 and 15, and their dependent claims, are patentable over the applied references.

Applicants request rejoinder of withdrawn claims 2-10 and 29, which depend from allowable independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

MAC:mem

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 2, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--